

John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, August 21, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO JACKSON.

Fairfield, Tenn. , August 21, 1828.

. . . . I am aware, that no man in this Country, living or dead has been abused to the extent you have; but I rejoice, that your firmness has borne you up, to leave all things in the hands of your friends, apart from any exercised feeling of your own. As for those allegations so repeatedly made, which are to be classed under the head of *private slanders* , they but fall still born from the press, and are unworthy to produce to you the slightest feeling: indeed I think it would be well, to adopt Jno Randolph plan, who says *he never will accomodate his enemies so far, as to honor them with any perusal of their abuse of him.* As to general matters, which affect your public history, such as the Burr affair, those are different, because to read such as them, is to enable your friends the better to understand and to meet them. All the other private whispers and slanders, should like Othello's physic *be thrown to the dogs*

Respecting the Burr affair, altho it is doing, and will do no harm, yet the Nashville Committee, should take it up, and meet it. Maj. Lewis speaks of your doing it. For my own part, just now, I should prefer the Committee to do it, with just the facts and documents presented, and no more of argument than may be necessary to their explanation. If any thing shall proceed from your pen, it might be better to follow after the report of the Committee; it might thus serve a better purpose, and something of delicacy as it regards your own feelings, be thereby the better preserved. It would seem well before the nation for you, to stand forth, with accompanied affidavits and certificates to prove yourself

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guiltless of the charge. This if you take it up, would of necessity have to be the case; but by the Committee going ahead, and submitting all the proofs and facts, directly after, if thought advisable, your remarks might then be made general, and merely in reference to the published facts, without particularising, as in the first place would be necessary.

As it regards effect, believe me, nothing now to be said of you, (you and your friends keeping cool and aloof) can be productive of the least injury. Public opinion is too well confirmed. The Press has overturned its own power, through, repeated falshood and slander. The people at large, read the news papers now, scarcely any, and each party with no confidence, in what the other asserts. There will be no changes, at least amongst your friends; abuse of you, tends but the stronger to confirm them; and besides all practice and experience shows, that men do not change from a stronger to a weaker side. The people, your friends should, make this plain common sense answer, to the abuses of you, "if these things be true why is it, that Jackson stands so well at home. Those slanders do no injury to you I assure you. My kind regard to mrs Jackson. yrs truly